

PLUMBERS SCARCE, CONTRACTORS QUIT

Lockwood Committee Hears
of Concerns Going Out
of Business.

FEW APPRENTICES NOW

Union Rules, It Is Charged,
Cause Lack of Skilled
Workmen.

HELPERS ARE CUT DOWN

Men Barred From Handling
Tools Are Unable to Learn
the Trade.

Plumbers are so scarce that large contractors are temporarily going out of business and apprentices to fill the gap in the jealously restricted ranks have become extinct, it was asserted yesterday before the Lockwood committee in City Hall.

"There is no such thing as an apprentice in the plumbing trade in New York to-day," deplored Milton Schnaier, a plumbing contractor at 209 West Seventy-sixth street, who estimated his annual business at \$2,000,000. He said the trade school offered the only opening for the all important novice with an ambition to learn the trade. The Plumbers' Union, he charged, deliberately checked infusion of new blood by forbidding helpers, restricted to one for every two plumbers, to use plumbing tools on a job.

Unfortunately, he added, trade school facilities were inadequate, and vocational schools started by the Board of Education were not far enough along to help.

Line of Plumbers Dwindles.
G. N. Jesse, Assemblyman, inquired: "How will you ever increase the supply of plumbers? They will die out after a while."

"The volume of business has been increasing," replied Mr. Schnaier, "and the supply of plumbers has been decreasing, so from that you can draw your own conclusion."

Samuel Untermyer, counsel, asked: "Don't you know that the Plumbers Union is constantly admitting helpers to the union as plumbers?"

"I know the union took one of my boys and gave him a card," agreed the contractor.

"But you do not think that unless they are allowed to handle the tools they get the necessary education to become plumbers?"

"That is positive. They do not. It is impossible."

"So these restrictions of the union you regard as paralyzing the mechanics of future generations?"

"I think any one can draw his own conclusions," Mr. Schnaier repeated.

Where Lockwood Crowd Failed.
One reform, Mr. Untermyer declared, to which the Lockwood committee had

been unable to persuade plumbers' unions was in the rearing of apprentices. Energies and ambitions of the new generation to become mechanics were still throttled, he indicated, where other abuses complained of had been eliminated.

Mr. Schnaier blamed the unions for the labor shortage, not only in their rule against plumbers having a helper's card but also for that rule against interchange of cards from journeymen belonging to the same national organization but coming, say, from New Jersey or Connecticut.

"There is such an absolute shortage," he announced, "I am not estimating on jobs any more."

"Is that because of the uncertainty of the wage scale?" Mr. Untermyer suggested.

"No, it is the uncertainty of being able to get labor to finish a contract under which I would be under penalty for completion."

"So that you have gone out of the contracting business, have you?"

"Temporarily so."

"Is that so with other large plumbing concerns?"

"Yes, sir."

Sorry He Got Court House Job.
"Haven't you the contract for the Court House?"

"I have—unfortunately so."

Reported attacks upon the unions last week at Terrace Garden were disclaimed by Mr. Schnaier and Charles Murphy, vice-president of Wells & Newton Company, plumbing contractors at Avenue B and Seventeenth street.

Mr. Murphy, who was convicted on a previous indictment of master plumbers, refused to waive immunity.

Employers, according to Mr. Murphy, had no grievances against the men that could not be settled among themselves, as had been done for thirty-five years.

Criticism of the unions, he related, had been directed against their 1-2 ratio of helpers, their demand to assemble as well as install shower bodies, otherwise assembled at the factory, and their further demand that all pipe be cut by hand on the job instead of by machine at the shop.

When Mr. Schnaier offered that as pipe cutting was 50 per cent. of a plumber's work any curtailment would strike

at his bread and butter Mr. Untermyer retorted: "If a labor union is permitted to make a regulation that would substitute for machine work hand work that would cost twice as much, solely on the ground it would give work to more men, it is a denial of all progress, obstructive and a burden upon home building."

Untermyer Sees Sliding Scale.

Mrs. Untermyer probed the jobbing field that the master plumbers conducted as one department of their business to find that various rates were charged for services of plumbers supplied to private houses.

"If it is on Fifth avenue," Mr. Untermyer taxed Mr. Murphy, "it costs one price and on Third avenue another?"

"Why, that might be, too," answered the contractor. "A cheap townhouse would not warrant paying as much for a plumber as a first class house would."

"You measure it according to the pocketbook of the owner?"

"No, it is a question then of charging all the traffic will bear?"

"No, not at all."

At the morning session Mr. Untermyer recommended that Michael Mullen of 69 Fourth avenue, Brooklyn, a business agent for Local 719 of the International Hod Carriers, be presented to the Grand Jury by the Lockwood committee. Mullen on the stand identified a confession he had signed April 10, 1921, which alleged he had stolen \$413 from the Independent Bricklayers Helpers in his capacity as business agent for that organization.

Plans to End Graft in Unions.
The next Legislature will likely be asked to enforce some system of book-keeping upon labor unions to protect members from fraud, Mr. Untermyer indicated.

Mr. Untermyer further brought out that the absorption of the Independent Bricklayers Helpers by the International Hod Carriers was virtually an accomplished fact. Complete transfer had been made of locals of the former Dioguardi-Brindell organization, which Mr. Untermyer termed a dummy "company

union" of the Building Trades Employers Association.

Dioguardi on the stand yesterday further advanced the cause of peace by resigning under pressure of Mr. Untermyer as head of a council of concrete laborers he had rallied out of remnants of his former independent body. Mr. Untermyer asserted this virtually extinguished the organization so that it could no longer be party to the suit for injunction pending in the Supreme Court in Brooklyn. Restraint of bricklayers and mason builders had been sought against interference with performance of a contract between the builders and Dioguardi's men which had until December 31 to run.

Charged as Trouble Maker.

C. G. Norman, chairman of the Building Trades Employers Association, was scored by Mr. Untermyer for having inspired Dioguardi to organize the concrete workers.

"What do you mean by fomenting strife here in these unions?" he charged.

"I am not fomenting strife," parried Mr. Norman.

"You are trying to prevent part of the independents now from going over to the concrete people, aren't you?"

"Yes, sir."

The concrete workers had not been directly involved in the previous bricklayers-hodcarriers quarrel with the mason builders.

Adjournment was taken until 10 o'clock this morning in City Hall, when workmen's compensation practices in force with insurance companies will probably be taken up.

COLD SNAP DUE TO-DAY.
The coldest weather New York has experienced since last winter is predicted by the Weather Bureau for to-day and to-night. The temperature is expected to drop to 24 this morning, and may reach 20 by nightfall. The cold wave will be accompanied by high northwest winds, but the weather probably will be clear.

MASON MITCHELL IS SHOT IN MALTA

New Yorker Slightly Wounded;
Known as Actor, Writer,
Soldier and Diplomat.

VALETTA, Malta, Dec. 12 (Associated Press).—Mason Mitchell of New York, American Consul to Malta, was shot here to-day and slightly wounded. His assailant, escaped, but later two men were arrested. Mr. Mitchell is suffering from a flesh wound.

One of the men arrested is Lorenzo Bonello, a Maltese, who was dishonorably discharged from the American Army during the war. He sought a pension through the Consulate here, but was told he was entitled to none.

Mr. Mitchell was shot at close range from behind with a revolver. At the impact of the bullet he turned and saw his assailant running away; then he picked up the revolver and walked to the British military offices near by.

Mason Mitchell is known as an actor, writer, world traveler, soldier and diplomat. He was born in Hamilton, N. Y., in 1855, went on the stage at the age of 18 and played with Edwin Booth, Lawrence Barrett and John McCullough, later becoming leading man with Mme. Modjeska.

He was chief of scouts in Canada through the Riel rebellion and, in the Spanish War was one of Roosevelt's Rough Riders and was wounded at Santiago.

Mr. Mitchell has been American Consul at Zanzibar, Chungking, China; Apia, Samoa and Cork, Ireland; has

traveled extensively through South America and the South Sea Islands, and has written extensively on his experiences.

STOLEN NECKLACE IS FOUND IN PAWNSHOP

Woman Gets \$25 on \$1,500
Pearls and Is Arrested.

A black traveling bag containing a \$1,500 pearl necklace, believed to have been stolen from Mrs. Edgar Speyer, 22 Washington Square North, in the Pennsylvania station, was recovered last night after the necklace had been pawned in a shop at Thirty-fourth street and Third avenue. Mrs. Emilie Armstrong, 307 Lexington avenue, was arrested on a charge of grand larceny.

Detective Tony Quinto of the Morristown station was standing in the pawnshop when Mrs. Armstrong entered and asked for a loan on the necklace. After she had taken \$25 for the article Quinto followed her to her room and arrested her. Articles of clothing bearing the tags of several leading stores were found in the room. A card in the bag gave Mrs. Speyer's name.

DR. SAXEMEYER FOUND DEAD.

Vial Containing Poison Lay Near
Dentist's Body.

The body of Dr. George B. Saxemeyer, dentist, who lived at 142 Claremont avenue, Jersey City, was found yesterday near the Jersey City International League baseball grounds. A small vial containing hydrocyanic acid lay near the body.

About a year ago Dr. Saxemeyer suffered a nervous breakdown and went to a sanitarium. He returned last Wednesday, apparently much improved. He leaves his wife, two daughters and one son.

Chauffeurs' Overcoats

Special at

\$35

Most serviceable, all-wool
Oxford Gray Whip-Cord.
Strictly in keeping with
motordom's latest fashion.

Suit to match \$32.00
Cap to match \$3.00

Send for measure blank and
booklet, showing what the
well groomed chauffeur should
wear. Easy to order by mail.

Our 35th Year in Business

Brill Brothers

America's Headquarters for Chauffeurs Apparel
Broadway at 49th Street New York City



The McCreery Men's Shop

20% Off

Men's and Young Men's

WINTER SUITS

(Golf and Sport Suits Included)

Reductions to be made at time of purchase

65.00 Suits Less 20%	52.00
55.00 Suits Less 20%	44.00
45.00 Suits Less 20%	36.00
38.00 Suits Less 20%	30.40

FIFTH AVENUE

James McCreery & Co.

35TH STREET

SECOND FLOOR—USE THE SPECIAL FIFTH AVENUE ENTRANCE

B. Altman & Co.

MEN'S SUITS

at great concessions from regular prices

Every Suit in the entire stock is now
marked at a substantial price reduction

including

Men's Business Suits
reduced to \$25.00, 38.50 & 48.50

Men's Dinner Suits
reduced to \$43.50 & 60.00

Men's Full Dress Suits
reduced to \$40.00

(Sixth Floor)

Madison Avenue-Fifth Avenue, New York

Thirty-fourth Street

Thirty-fifth Street

Store Hours: 9 A. M. to 6 P. M.

Telephone FitzRoy 3400

FIFTH AVENUE

James McCreery & Co.

34TH STREET



A New Tongue Pump

The "Monna" 8.75

Its small tongue voices the newest note in this distinctive version of the pump. Aristocratic in appearance, and decidedly snug and comfortable in fit, it opportunely makes its debut during the gift season. The "Monna" is fashioned of Gray, Black, and Brown Suede, Patent Leather, Black Satin, Bronze Kidskin, and Black Calfskin with a Gray Suede tongue, which may be further enhanced with a buckle.

[Second Floor]

Shoe

Ornaments

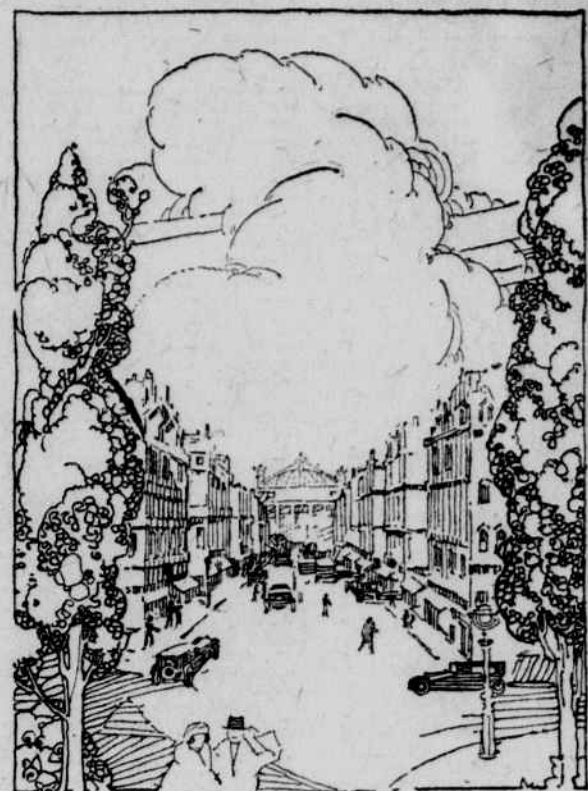
Suggest Gifts

pr. 1.75 to 48.00

The great popularity of ornaments for pumps emphasizes their desirability as gifts. Every conceivable good style may be found here in cut steel or rhinestones in a strikingly beautiful collection.

[Second Floor]

James McCreery & Co.
5TH AVENUE 34TH STREET
Christmas Columns



FROM FOREIGN PARTS

come all manner of unique gifts with an odd foreign flavor which adds to their fascination. These are merely a very few examples.



from England

England is famed for her gardens and from these have been culled the fragrance in the Yardly perfumes. Le Beau Monde, 14.00



from France

Beaded handbags with colors so cleverly contrasted, and designs so intricate, they form a mosaic of fanciful beauty. 7.50 to 89.75
Steel Beaded Envelope Bag, gold and silver. 29.50



from Switzerland

Watches renowned for their fineness and accuracy, in White and Green gold as well as platinum, set with diamonds. All have jeweled movements and exceedingly attractive shapes. 16.75 to 325.00

White gold rectangular watch. 39.75



from Italy

White Coral necklaces delicately tinted, and carefully graduated. They are the vogue of the season and all the more precious because they are genuine. 14.75 to 39.75

(Main Floor)

The Great Christmas Gift Shop
of all New York